



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

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July 26, 2019

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Shafaq Patel  
MuckRock News  
[77015-82598193@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:77015-82598193@requests.muckrock.com)

**Re: Your Public Records Request**

Ms. Patel,

This letter is in response to your public records request made pursuant to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, G.L. c. 66, § 10, received by the Department of Public Health (DPH or the Department) on July 12, 2019. This request has been assigned a tracking number **BHCSQ-2019-399**. Specifically, you requested:

“Materials related to requests for information regarding abortion services. Please include as responsive:

1. Any public records requests, as well as any provided responses or responsive materials, submitted by groups with a publicly known focus on anti-abortion and pro-life sentiments. Please include but do not limit responsive materials to those referencing the following organizations:

- Pro-Life Action League
- National Right to Life
- Check My Clinic
- The Center for Medical Progress
- Coalition for Life
- Operation Rescue
- Right to Life.

If there is a group, like a local city group, that has this sentiment but was not listed, please also provide their requests as well.

2. All communications, from Jan. 1, 2015 to present day, between your agency and representatives of the following organizations:

- Pro-Life Action League
- National Right to Life
- Check My Clinic
- The Center for Medical Progress

- Coalition for Life
- Operation Rescue
- Right to Life.

3. Any and all requests and documents with following words:

ABORTION  
PREGNANCY TERMINATION  
TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY  
UNBORN BABIES  
INDUCED ABORTION  
FETAL TISSUE  
PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION  
TELEMEDICINE”

The Department cannot proceed with your request without clarification. In your request, you provided only an email address as your contact information. I sent you an email on July 15, 2019, asking you to call me so we could clarify your request. You did not respond, so I sent follow up emails on July 16 and July 18. Finally, on July 23 I sent you an email explaining to you that because the Department cannot respond to your request as it was submitted, the Department would close your request on Friday, July 26, 2019, if you did not contact the Department to clarify what you are seeking.

You have not responded and the Department is unable to proceed with a response to your request unless a clarification is made.

The Department of Public Health now considers this public records request closed. If you wish to resubmit your public records request you may do so. If you wish to challenge this response you may appeal to the Supervisor of Records following the procedure set forth in 950 CMR 32.08, a copy of which is attached. Pursuant to G.L. c. 66, § 10A, you may seek judicial review by commencing a civil action in Suffolk Superior Court.

Very truly yours,



Rebecca Rodman  
Deputy General Counsel

cc: Helen Rush-Lloyd, Records Access Officer  
Ann Scales, Media Relations Manager